

Message Text

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SUBJ: FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION

REF: CALGARY A-138, SEPT. 11/73

CALGARY A-113, JULY 24/73

CALGARY 224, JULY 24/73

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGAIN HAS ASSURED WESTERN PROVINCES THAT IT WILL STRIVE TO ELIMINATE BASIC TRANSPORTATION INEQUITIES. TRANSPORT MINISTER JEAN MARCHAND MET IN CALGARY THIS WEEK WITH TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA IN A CONTINUATION OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DISCUSSIONS STARTED AT THE WESTERN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE IN CALGARY IN JULY, 1973.

2. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, PARTICIPATING MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

...FREIGHT RATE GROUPINGS HENCEFORTH WILL INCLUDE SMALL COMMUNITIES IN THE SAME RATE GROUPS AS THE NEAREST LARGEST CITIES.

...THE REJECTION OF FUTURE RAILWAY APPLICATIONS FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD RATE INCREASES.

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MMMFULL DISCLOSURE OF COST FACTORS IN ALL FUTURE
RAILWAY APPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER RATES.

A CHANGE IN THE FORMULA OF MAXIMUM RATE
RESTRICTIONS SO THAT MORE FAVORABLE RATES,
WHEN APPLICABLE, WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR
SHIPPERS.

...ELIMINATION OF LONG HAUL-SHORT HAUL, AND RAW-
AND-FINISHED PRODUCE ANOMALIES.

...A GUARANTEE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT
OTTAWA WILL PROVIDE AN IMPROVED GRAIN TRANSPORT
SYSTEM.

COMMENT: ALBERTA PREMIER LOUGHEED DESCRIBES CALGARY
AGREEMENTS AS "A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN WESTERN PROVINCES
RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT". EDITORIAL COMMENT
FROM THE CALGARY HERALD STATED "THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN
CALGARY IS FAR MORE ENCOURAGING AND DETAILED, AND SEEMINGLY
CAPABLE OF FULFILLMENT, THAN ANYTHING THAT HAS PRECEDED
IT". THE CALGARY ALBERTAN REPORTED "WESTERNERS AWAIT WITH
EAGERNESS EVIDENCE OF HOW COMMITTED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
IS TO THE NEW AGREEMENT. AT WORST WE WILL FACE SOME
HARMLESS TINKERING WITH EXISTING STRUCTURES, AT BEST, WE
FACE A FORESEEABLE END TO A DECADE-LONG SERIES OF
GRIEVANCES". HALL

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